

**What is Claimed is:****1. A facsimile machine comprising:**

an input port adapted to be coupled to a telephone line;

a controller coupled to said input port;

a memory device coupled to said controller;

a plurality of module ports, each of said plurality of module ports adapted to be coupled to one of a plurality of equipment modules; and

an input/output controller coupled between said controller and said plurality of module ports,

wherein said controller is adapted to receive a data transfer intended for one of said plurality of equipment modules via said telephone line, determine said one of said plurality of equipment modules said data transfer is intended for, and route said data transfer to said one of said plurality of equipment modules.

2. The facsimile machine according to claim 1, wherein said controller is further adapted to determine if said one of said plurality of equipment modules is available to receive said data transfer.

3. The facsimile machine according to claim 2, wherein said controller is further adapted to store said data transfer in said memory if said one of said plurality of equipment modules is not available to receive said data transfer.

4. The facsimile machine according to claim 2, wherein said controller determines if said one of said plurality of equipment modules is available based on time of day.

5. The facsimile machine according to claim 2, wherein said controller determines if said one of said plurality of equipment modules is available based on the date.

6. The facsimile machine according to claim 1, wherein said controller is further adapted to receive data from said plurality of equipment modules and send said data to a service center via said telephone line.
  7. The facsimile machine according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of module ports includes a serial data port.
  8. The facsimile machine according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of module ports includes an infrared transceiver port.
  9. The facsimile machine according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of module ports includes a LAN port.
  10. The facsimile machine according to claim 9, wherein said LAN port is wireless.
  11. A system for routing a data transfer comprising:
    - a plurality of customer equipment modules; and
    - a facsimile machine, said facsimile machine comprising:
      - an input port adapted to be coupled to a telephone line;
      - a controller coupled to said input port;
      - a memory device coupled to said controller;
      - a plurality of module ports, each of said plurality of module ports adapted to be coupled to a respective one of said plurality of customer equipment modules; and
      - an input/output controller coupled between said controller and said plurality of module ports,
- said facsimile machine being adapted to receive said data transfer from a service center via said telephone line, said data transfer being intended for one of said plurality of customer equipment modules, said controller being further adapted to determine said one of said plurality of customer equipment modules

said data transfer is intended for, and route said data transfer to said one of said plurality of customer equipment modules.

12. The system according to claim 11, wherein said controller is further adapted to determine if said one of said plurality of customer equipment modules is available to receive said data transfer.

13. The system according to claim 12, wherein said controller is further adapted to store said data transfer in said memory if said one of said plurality of equipment modules is not available to receive said data transfer.

14. The system according to claim 12, wherein said controller determines if said one of said plurality of equipment modules is available based on time of day.

15. The system according to claim 12, wherein said controller determines if said one of said plurality of equipment modules is available based the date.

16. The system according to claim 11, wherein said controller is further adapted to receive data from said plurality of equipment modules and send said data to a service center via said telephone line.

17. The system according to claim 16, wherein said data includes diagnostic information.

18. The system according to claim 11, wherein said plurality of module ports includes a serial data port.

19. The system according to claim 11, wherein said plurality of module ports includes an infrared transceiver port.

20. The system according to claim 11, wherein said plurality of module ports includes a LAN port.

21. The system according to claim 20, wherein said LAN port is wireless.

22. The system according to claim 11, wherein said plurality of customer equipment modules includes a postage scale.

23. The system according to claim 22, wherein said data transfer includes a rate update.

24. The system according to claim 11, wherein said plurality of customer equipment modules includes a postage meter.

25. The system according to claim 24, wherein said data transfer includes funds for said postage meter.

26. The system according to claim 11, wherein said plurality of customer equipment modules includes a mailing machine.

27. The system according to claim 11, wherein said plurality of customer equipment modules includes a personal computer.

28. A method for routing a data transfer comprising the steps of:

receiving said data transfer at a facsimile machine, said facsimile machine having a plurality of customer equipment modules coupled thereto, said data transfer being intended for one of said plurality of customer equipment modules;

determining said one of said plurality of customer equipment modules for which said data transfer is intended;

determining if said one of said plurality of customer equipment modules is available to receive said data transfer; and

if said one of said plurality of customer equipment modules is available to receive said data transfer, routing said data transfer to said one of said plurality of customer equipment modules.

29. The method according to claim 28, wherein if said one of said plurality of customer equipment modules is not available to receive said data transfer, said method further comprises:

storing said data transfer in a memory.

30. The method according to claim 28, wherein said step of determining said one of said plurality of customer equipment modules further comprises:

reading a header associated with said data transfer, said header specifying said one of said plurality of customer equipment modules for which said data transfer is intended.

31. The method according to claim 28, wherein said step of determining if said one of said plurality of customer equipment modules is available to receive said data transfer further comprises:

monitoring operation status of said one of said plurality of customer equipment modules.

32. The method according to claim 28, wherein said step of determining if said one of said plurality of customer equipment modules is available to receive said data transfer further comprises:

determining a time of day; and

comparing said determined time of day to a predetermined time of day when said one of said plurality of customer equipment modules will accept a data transfer.

33. The method according to claim 28, wherein said step of determining if said one of said plurality of customer equipment modules is available to receive said data transfer further comprises:

determining the date; and

comparing said determined date to predetermined dates when said one of said plurality of customer equipment modules will accept a data transfer

34. The method according to claim 28, wherein said data transfer is from a service center and received by said facsimile machine via a telephone line.

35. The method according to claim 34, wherein said service center sends said data transfer in response to a request from said one of said plurality of customer equipment modules.

36. The method according to claim 28, wherein said plurality of customer equipment modules includes a postage scale.
37. The method according to claim 28, wherein said plurality of customer equipment modules includes a postage meter.
38. The method according to claim 28, wherein said plurality of customer equipment modules includes a mailing machine.
39. The method according to claim 28, wherein said plurality of customer equipment modules includes a personal computer.